

Spring 1-15-2003

ENG 1092G-098: Honors Composition

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Recommended Citation

Hanlon, Christopher, "ENG 1092G-098: Honors Composition" (2003). *Spring 2003*. 63.
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English 1092: Honors Composition
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 Office Hours: MWF 12-1, MW 3-4:30, & by appointment

Spring 2003
 Office: Coleman Hall 3820
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REQUIRED MATERIALS:

TEXTS: Diana Hacker, ed. A Writer's Reference, 4th ed.
 Barbar Ehrenreich, Nickled and Dimed
 Eric Schlosser, Fast Food Nation
*Additional materials in coursepack available for purchase at EIU Campus Center
 Copy Services in Martin Luther King Student Union*

OTHER: Two 3.5-inch floppy diskettes to preserve your drafts (one is for backup)
 An EIU e-mail address; the ability to send and receive Microsoft Word
 attachments

COURSE GOALS:

English 1092 is a class intended to help you grow as a writer and a thinker. As the members of this class constitute a diverse group who link themselves with all sorts of intellectual pursuits, the course will be structured around a larger topic that lends itself to a broad field of perspectives. That topic might be best named in the title of one work from which we will read shortly, George Ritzer's The McDonaldization of Society. Reading the works of professional writers who describe themselves as journalists, sociologists, intellectual historians, nutritionists, economists, and legal scholars, we will mediate over, discuss, and write about the effects of mass-production, mass-consumption, and mass-marketing on some of the most fundamental features of our everyday lives. Since, as the adage goes, we are what we eat, we will spend a significant amount of time this semester reading and writing about fast food, something with which we all have experience and which provides perhaps the most powerful symbol of convenience, uniformity, and predictability the world has ever known. But the meanings we will find at play in the Big Mac and the Whopper will also help us to investigate other facets of our fast food nation: higher education, entertainment, and other subjects of more specific interest to you personally and professionally (Sports? Religion? Music? Architecture? Fashion? Business?). Thus, it is my hope that this course will allow you to develop your skills as a writer by drawing upon your experience of contemporary American life and by pushing you to pursue difficult questions — even as it helps you to ponder questions about your own potential for self-determination and self-invention in this our brave new McWorld.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation: Everyone in this course is an honors student; therefore, in addition to keeping apace with the assigned readings, writing exercises, and writing projects, students should come to class prepared to participate. This means that you should come to class with questions to ask each other, ideas to present, text to read aloud, and observations to make, and it also means that you should be courteous to every other member of the class as they offer their own ideas and questions. It also means that when we workshop each other's writing, you must be an active, courteous, and helpful reader and editor.

Note, however, that “participation” does NOT mean merely talking a lot. In order to participate, you *do* have to speak frequently (say, at least once every class meeting), but you also have to do so in a way that demonstrates active and creative engagement with the course materials. Idle talk—the kind of talk that simply does not indicate such engagement—does not help move our discussions forward and hence does not qualify as participation.

This is a writing-centered course. While much of our activity in this course will involve reading and then trading ideas concerning those readings, our primary activity this semester will be writing. Outside of class, you will be asked to complete drafts of your essay projects for other class members to read and then (constructively) critique, and our time in class will often be conducted as writing workshops. I will never – or only very rarely and as succinctly as possible – lecture, though I will often promote discussion. This is because as a professional writer, I believe that writers develop their craft by writing. The more time we commit to actually writing, and the more time we commit to discussing that writing with other writers, the more we will develop and hone our individual talents and perspectives.

Four major assignments will determine the bulk of your grade this semester. The due dates for the final drafts of four essay assignments appear on the course syllabus, as do the due dates for preliminary drafts. Shorter in-class writing assignments will also factor into your grade, which I will determine at the end of the semester using this formula:

Grading Formula:

Participation	10%
In-class Assignments	15%
Essay #1	10%
Essay #2	20%
Essay #3	25%
Essay #4	20%

COURSE POLICIES:

Academic Honesty:

Please note the English Department’s statement on plagiarism (that is, the intentional or unintentional use of another writer’s intellectual property without proper acknowledgment):

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me. Also, please make a point of noting the following: I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty in this course. If I come to suspect misconduct of any kind, I will become dogged about rooting it out, and if my suspicions are confirmed, I will dispense appropriate penalties. That said, let’s not allow this to become an issue for any members of our class.

Attendance:

I will not impose any penalty for excessive absences this semester, though I will keep track of who is showing up and who is not. The decision to attend or not rests entirely with you, though not attending will

surely place you at a disadvantage in all sorts of ways. I will not spend extra time helping students who have chosen not to attend to catch up or to learn things that have been covered in class.

Due Dates:

Papers and drafts are due on the dates indicated in the course schedule included below. I am *sometimes* willing to grant extensions if (1) students provide a persuasive reason for me to do so, and (2) the request is submitted in writing at least two class meetings in advance of the paper's due date.

Course Schedule:

(May be altered as semester continues)

WEEK 1

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 13 January

- Introductions
- Course Outline
- Diagnostic Writing Assignment

Wednesday, 15 January

- Read Ritzer, from The McDonaldization of Society (coursepack)

Friday, 17 January

- Continue Ritzer discussion
- Exploratory writing, Essay #1
- Set up EIU email

WEEK 2

Class meets in Coleman 3120

Monday, 20 January

- Martin Luther King Day; no class meeting

Wednesday, 22 January

- Bring mid-process draft of Essay #1; e-mail me by 11 am; bring hard copy and draft on diskettes
- Workshop: What counts as revision

Friday, 24 January

- Bring mid-process diskettes
- Workshop: How to make a comment
- Peer review

WEEK 3

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 27 January

- Conferences in my office

Wednesday, 29 January

- Conferences in my office

Friday, 31 January

- Publication copy due, Essay #1; e-mail me by 11 am

WEEK 4

Class meets in Coleman 3120

Monday, 3 February

- Read Schlosser, Fast Food Nation, chaps. 1, 2, 3

Wednesday, 5 February

- Read Schlosser, chaps. 7, 8, 9, Epilogue

Friday, 7 February

- Continue Schlosser discussion
- Exploratory Writing, Essay #2

WEEK 5

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 10 February

Group reports:

- "Adolescent Occupational Injuries in Fast Food Restaurants"
- "Epidemic Obesity in the US"
- "Minimum Wages and Employment"
- "Food Consumption and Buying Patterns of Students from a Philippine University Fastfood Mall"

Wednesday, 12 February

Group reports:

- "Intrametropolitan Variation in Wage Rates"
- "Minimum Wage and Employment"
- "Halting the Obesity Epidemic"
- Radio transcript from Talk of the Nation: "Fast Food on Trial"

Friday, 14 February

- Lincoln's birthday:
No class meeting

WEEK 6

Class meets in Coleman 3120

Monday, 17 February

- Exploratory writing, Essay #2

Wednesday, 19 February

- Bring mid-process draft Essay #2; e-mail me draft By 11 am; bring hard copy and draft on diskettes
- Workshop: embedding quotes

Friday, 21 February

- Bring mid-process drafts
- Peer review

WEEK 7

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 24 February

- Bring concluding revision draft Essay #2, hard copy
- Peer reviewing, copyediting

Wednesday, 26 February

- Publication copy Essay #2 due, e-mail

Friday, 28 February

- Nick Bromell, "Welcome to Princeton, Inc."
- David Nobles, "Digital Diploma Mills"

WEEK 8

Class meets in Coleman 3120

Monday, 3 March

- Continue discussion of Brommel and Nobles

Wednesday, 5 March

- Bromell and Hanlon, e-mail exchange on researching "Welcome to Princeton, Inc."
- Form Research Groups

Friday, 7 March

- Form research agendas

WEEK 9

Spring Break – no class meetings

WEEK 10

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 17 March

- Group research reports

Wednesday, 19 March

- Group research reports
- Information Barter

Friday, 21 March

- Exploratory writing, Essay #3

WEEK 11

Class meets in Coleman 3120

Monday, 24 March

- Bring mid-process draft of Essay #3; e-mail me draft by 11 am; bring hard copy and draft on diskettes
- Peer review

Wednesday, 26 March

- Bring mid-process draft
- Peer review

Friday, 28 March

- Bring mid-process draft
- Peer review

WEEK 12

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 31 March

- Conferences in my office

Wednesday, 2 April

- Conferences in my office

Friday, 4 April

- Conferences in my office

WEEK 13

Class meets in Coleman 3120

Monday, 7 April

- Bring concluding revision draft of Essay #3
- Peer review, copyediting

Wednesday, 9 April

- Publication copy Essay #3 due, beginning of class; e-mail me essay by 11 am
- Discussion of op/ed pieces

Friday, 11 April

- Continue discussion of op/ed pieces

WEEK 14

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 14 April

- Bring in names and addresses of two local newspapers that accept op/eds.
- Exploratory writing, Essay #4

Wednesday, 16 April

- Mid-process draft Essay #4 due beginning of class; e-mail me draft by 11 am; bring hard copy to class

Friday, 18 April

- Workshop: Logos, Pathos, Ethos

WEEK 15

Class meets in Coleman 3120

Monday, 21 April

- Mini-conferences in my office

Wednesday, 23 April

- Mini-conferences in my office

Friday, 25 April

- Concluding revision draft due, beginning of class; bring hard copy and draft on diskettes
- Peer review, copy-editing

WEEK 16

Class meets in Coleman 3130

Monday, 28 April

- No class meeting

Wednesday, 30 April

- Publication Copy, Essay #4 due beginning of class; e-mail me by 11 am

Friday, 2 May

- Last class meeting, wrap-up